



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q63117

NOBE, KAZUHIKO, et al.

Appln. No. 09/783,328

Group Art Unit: 3713

Confirmation No.: 3179

Examiner: JONES, S.

Filed: February 15, 2001

For: GAME DEVICE, GAME DEVICE CONTROL METHOD, INFORMATION STORAGE MEDIUM, GAME DISTRIBUTION DEVICE, AND GAME DISTRIBUTION METHOD

STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.97(e)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making a reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: June 7, 2002



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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) (substitute for PTO Form 1449) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after either a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), but before payment of the Issue Fee, and therefore Applicant is submitting herewith a check for the fee of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p), and a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e). The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

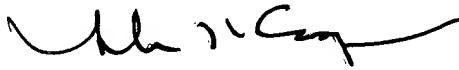
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
U.S. Appln. No. 09/783,328

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant submits the following explanations:

Please see attached sheets for Concise Explanation of Relevance.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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CONCISE EXPLANATION OF RELEVANCE

1. Dengeki PlayStation, Media Works, Co.Ltd., October 22, 1999,
Vol. 5, No.28, Page 180

This document introduces an append disk for a dance game. An append disk, when executed by a game machine, following a game disk, allows a player to play the dance game to different music. An append disk stores both music data and step timing data. On the contrary, the present invention utilizes a commercially available music CD, which does not store step timing data.

2. Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. Hei 10-99546

This document discloses a dance game machine. This machine reads dance action data in response to an operation of an operation means so that an image of a dance player is changed according to the read dance action data. Then, scores are calculated based on timing at which to read dance action data and timing at which to generate beat information, which is to be generated based on a music signal of dance music. This document describes that beat information may be extracted from a reproduction signal of a general dance music CD using a filter. However, it discloses none of a commercially available CD judgement means, an operation timing data storage means, and a music game execution means.

3. Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. Hei 10-319957

This document discloses a technique in which a plurality of character motion data are registered and the motion data is compressed or expanded so as to be synchronized with the tempo information for reproduction based on tempo information obtained from a music CD. This technique allows a dancing character to be displayed, using a relatively small amount of data. This document, however, discloses none of a commercially available CD judgement means, an operation timing data storage means, and a music game execution means.

LIST OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

1. Dengeki PlayStation, Media Works, Co. Ltd., October 22, 1999,
Vol. 5, No. 28, Page 180

2. Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. Hei 10-99546
Publication Date: April 21, 1998
Corresponding US Patent Number: 6,001,013
Date of Patent: December 14, 1999
Assignee: Pioneer Electronics Corporation (JP)

Corresponding US Patent No. 6,001,013 is equivalent to Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. Hei 10-99546.

3. Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. Hei 10-319957
Publication Date: December 4, 1998